

Idan Golan family project

I was born on a moshav and have dreamed my whole life of going back to my parents' farm, waking up to the landscapes of the Land of Israel and farming its soil.

My first wife, with whom I had two children - the oldest is 18, going into the army soon, and the youngest is 16 – did not share that dream. But today I am married to Dana, who is very supportive of moshav life and investing in agriculture.

We have visions of ourselves building our home on a moshav and contributing to the upswing in Israeli farming.

My elderly parents stopped working as farmers when they got older, finding it difficult to manage on their own.

Today we are living on my parents' farm in Moshav Yad Natan. We have 3 small children – two boys, aged 6 and 3.5, and a two-month old daughter.

We would love to work in agriculture, but it involves a major financial outlay that to our regret, we cannot afford. We would need to buy saplings, install an irrigation system, etc.

Before Covid-19, our troubles were mainly being targeted by missiles in times of war and military action. It was terrifying, both for us and the children.

And now Covid-19 is upon us... My wife, Dana, is a fitness instructor for women. The studio she runs lost 85% of its customers overnight. The business has become unprofitable.

I am also self-employed. I offer plumbing services and usually work with big corporations. With a non-functioning government over the last two years, there is no budget for my services and my income has dropped by 70%. Now, with Covid-19, I earn even less.

Economically, we would like to start afresh, and our dream is developing my parents' farm. We believe that farming, aside from being a dream come true, can also be profitable.

We are bringing up our children to love Israel and feel an attachment to the land. Every weekend, we take them on hikes around the country. The children want to see the landscape around them bloom and are excited to help.

When my parents settled on the moshav in 1971-1972, they began raising beef calves. They also grew celery and tomatoes. They planted orange and tangerine groves, and later grew flowers such as gladioli and lilies. Finally, they built a chicken coop. They bred poultry for many years but cut back in 2000 due to discouragement by the state. At that point they began to raise ornamental fish for export but stopped because marketing was problematic.

Our bond to the Land of Israel is strong, and it is one of the primary values we hope to pass on to our children. We are both Zionists and served in the Israel Defense Forces. Dana was a liaison officer whose job was to mobilize reservists, and I work as an aircraft electrician. We both believe in settling the Negev and making the desert bloom.

We would very much appreciate any assistance in making our dream of returning to the land come true.

But even without support, we are people of faith. We believe that whatever happens is meant to happen, and everything is guided from above – all for the best.

We eagerly await your response and pray for good news.

Many blessings,

Dana and Idan Golan